Speed breakers on NHs

†294. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for constructing speed breakers on the National Highways;

(b) the number of speed breakers on National Highway No. 11 from Jaipur to Agra and on National Highway No. 12 from Jaipur to Kota;

(c) whether due to these speed breakers there is possibility of accidents alongwith inconvenience in travelling; and

(d) whether there is any plan to remove these speed breakers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) As per the extant policy guidelines of the Ministry, speed breakers are not permitted on National Highways being obstruction to free flow of traffic and safety hazard. However, Ministry's policy circular recommends provision of properly designed rumble strips at places like approaches to sharp curves or level crossings, congested or accident prone sections etc. where control of speed on National Highways is unavoidable.

There are 12 numbers of speed breakers on NH-11 from Jaipur to Agra and 8 numbers of speed breakers on NH-12 from Jaipur to Kota. As per the Ministry's extant policy, concerned executive agencies have been instructed to take urgent necessary action in co-ordination with the local authorities for removing of speed breakers existing on National Highways and replace the same with properly designed rumble strips, only at unavoidable locations.

Environmental and security threats from Sethusamudram Project

†295. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of environmental hazards alongwith threat to National security posed by Sethusamudram project;

(b) if so, whether Government have consulted Navy on issues like terror incidents, smuggling and breeding of other crimes, concerning security;

(c) the meaningful outcome of these consultations; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to tackle security and environmental hazards involving the Sethusamudram project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project was approved by the Government in May, 2005 after obtaining all necessary clearances and inter-Ministerial consultations including on the environmental aspects. The Government is conscious of its responsibilities towards ensuring security and takes necessary measures in this regard as part of an on-going process. The Monitoring Committee on the Environmental Impact Issues of Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project constituted by the Government assesses and advises the project authorities on the impact on environment.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.